

To Frack or Not to Frack: Hearing the Voice of the People

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Background

A great deal of controversy has developed concerning unconventional sources of oil and gas in the U.S and abroad as a result of hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking. Stakeholders setting appropriate policies effectively engage insights of the current public perception of the issue.

Methods

- The research used in this study is a mix of different measures of qualitative data. The studies conducted take a deeper look into the social impacts made on the communities, by interviewing employees of the companies of interest and the leaders who make decisions concerning the establishment of the companies.
- In previous studies of method, demographics and political affiliation, environmental values had the strongest influences and most favorable attitudes on perceptions. Also incorporating information relating to environmental quality, agriculture and physical infrastructures found by experts in the given fields.

Results

Our findings suggest that in communities near fracking sites, pro-fracking ideas are primarily influenced by employment opportunities and increased revenue.

Whereas, counter arguments are stimulated by the potential harm the fracking can have on the environment and on public and individual health.

Conclusion

We conclude that among the cases we study it was most common that in areas where citizens are more educated about fracking, they are more likely to develop anti-fracking opinions. There is an obvious gap in communication between communities leaders and those they lead. Increased effort emphasizing collaboration between public officials and local residence whilst instituting policies will provide public decision on fracking to benefit a larger population of the community as a whole.